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UNITED STATES.

YELLOW FEVER IN THE SOLDIERS' HOME AT HAMPTON, VA.

Late Saturday evening, July 29, a telegram was received from Major Vickery, surgeon, United States Army, requesting that an expert be sent to examine suspicious cases of sickness in the Home. Surgeon Wasdin was immediately ordered there from Norfolk, and at 9 o'clock of the evening of the 30th his telegraphic message was received announcing that the cases were yellow fever.

Surg. J. H. White was at once ordered from Washington to Hampton to take charge of Service affairs. Surgeon White has had large experience in yellow fever epidemics, having been in charge of Camp Fontainebleau, Miss., in 1897, and later of Camp Hutton, Avondale, La.

Surgeon Wasdin wired that a cordon had been established around the Soldiers' Home, this being the first measure necessary in establishing quarantine. The matter of next importance was to warn neighboring cities and advise them to look up any inmates of the Home who might be visiting and to keep them under close observation.

Telegrams to this effect were accordingly sent the same night (30th) to Norfolk, Portsmouth, Newport News, Richmond, and to Health Officer Woodward, of Washington, D. C. Acknowledgments have been received, and the search for people recently from the Home or from Hampton is going on. In Norfolk the health officer telephoned that a house-to-house inspection was being made. Dr. Farquhar at Portsmouth was appointed to consult with health authorities there and of the adjoining town of Berkeley and to aid in locating refugees. The same night Passed Assistant Surgeon Wertenbaker was ordered from

Wilmington, N. C., to Hampton. He is not an immune, but intimately acquainted with the locality, and will serve on the outside of the cordon. Surgeon Wasdin was also ordered to guard Phoebus, a town near Hampton.

Surgeon Vickery was telegraphed, offering assistance and requesting him to prepare a list of members of the Home who had departed within a month, with destinations to assist in tracing them, and to give this list to Surgeon White.

July 31 (Monday), Assistant Surgeon von Ezdorf ordered from New Orleans to Hampton. He is immune and has had experience in epidemic work.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Smith, on leave, was directed to rejoin his station—Norfolk; and Passed Assistant Surgeon Magruder was ordered from Memphis to Hampton. Both these officers have had large quarantine experience.

Surgeon Pettus, in command of Cape Charles Quarantine, has been ordered to assign his assistant, Dr. McClintic to temporary command, and himself to remain on duty at Old Point.

The following is Surgeon Wasdin's report:

Report of Surgeon Wasdin.

NORFOLK, VA., July 30, 1899.

SIR: In compliance with your telegraphic order of the 29th (yesterday), I have seen all the cases of suspected disease at the National Soldiers' Home at Hampton, Va. Major Vickery gave me every opportunity. To-day the history of contagion seems complete; it is being compiled and will be sent later. It may be summarized as follows: Early in July an "old soldier" entered the Home for a short rest, and soon after appeared at the dispensary, where he informed the physician in charge that he was but recently from Santiago de Cuba via a transport to a northern port; thence he started for Manila via San Francisco, "beat" his way to the Home on a freight train, and entered with his baggage. He complained of dumb chills and fever, and was prescribed for. He mingled freely with the inmates of the Home. He disappeared a short time ago. From this as a possible cause, the outbreak is as follows:

Preceding Friday, the 21st inst., there had been noticed nothing of a suspicious nature. The weekly death rate was as usual. But on the 21st and 22d, there became ill during the night, with sharp or less chill and high fever, some 8 or 10 of the inmates, men of usually good health. These seizures, although noted as peculiar, occasioned no alarm until about Thursday, the 27th, when a death occurred, the man becoming distinctly yellow some time prior to death. On or about the same day another one died without having attracted particular medical attention. He also turned quite yellow. Necropsies were performed on both by a resident pathologist. It was then, or a little later, that the telegram was sent to you asking for an expert. On my arrival I found that there were more than 3,500 inmates, and that 35, or 1 per cent, had been taken ill since the 21st. Of these, 4 have died. One was at 12 m. moribund, and 3 others were desperately

ill, and I believe will die. A number of the sick are convalescent, and a number are much more recent admissions to hospital. There is an area of infection not strictly defined in and about certain dormitories, although several cases have recently been admitted from a more distant dormitory. I can not ascertain as yet whether or not the tramp soldier slept in the first-mentioned dormitory. A very strict search was made on Friday and Saturday in all dormitories to detect cases, and all (31) were isolated in a large ward. In spite of this careful search in the dormitories 1 man was admitted to hospital ward *last night* and died at 3 a. m. The general symptoms have been a sharp chill at night or early in the morning, followed by fever; much pain in head and back and in the legs; nausea and vomiting have been pronounced; almost invariably there has been and continues to be much epigastric pain, heaviness or uneasiness; in 1 case to day vomit has been very free and gums have been swollen; in 1 case I saw epistaxis; on the third or fifth day icterus has come on generally; in a few cases it has been present to a most marked extent, eyes and skin being golden; eyes generally injected and facies congested. In a number of cases (9 to-day) albumen is present in appreciable quantities; in all the serious cases uræmia is developed, there are several almost anuric; bowels constipated, spleen normal on palpation. I withheld a positive diagnosis last night because of the assertion of Surgeon Vickery that there had been no communication of the inmates with any Cuban soldiers returned since last May or early in June. With the discovery of the probable origin of the infection and the 2 necropsies to-day (for which I also wished to wait) there can be no doubt of the disease being yellow fever. I have advised Major Vickery to empty the dormitories infected at once, putting the men preferably in tents. The grounds are closed to ingress and against egress. There has been as usual here, a very free intercommunication between the inmates and the people of the adjacent village of Phoebus, a public house near the grounds having been freely visited until last night. I have suggested to Dr. Pettus to meet one or more of the local health board and, informing them of the status of affairs, ask their cooperation in watching the village. The inmates of the Home, as I understand, do not mingle with people outside of this village. From this fact it would seem possible to confine the disease to the Home. I mail this on board the steamer in order that you may have all the facts at an early hour to-morrow.

Respectfully, yours,

EUGENE WASDIN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

August 1: Orders were given by the Secretary of War that no vessel be allowed at Government wharf, Fortress Monroe, unless upon order of the Government officer there, Dr. Pettus.

The Secretary of the Treasury requested the Secretary of War to telegraph instructions to the commandant of the military reservation at Fortress Monroe directing him to place all quarantine measures relating to the reservation in the hands of the officer of the Marine-Hospital Service at Old Point under the direction of the Supervising Surgeon-General, Marine-Hospital Service, and instructing him to comply strictly with the Treasury regulations. This was done.

Suspects are to be sent to Crany Island (recently transferred from the Navy to the Treasury Department), under the supervision of Passed Assistant Surgeon Smith. Acting Assistant Moncure has been directed to report for duty at Crany Island.

August 2: Acting Assistant Surgeon Farquhar was directed to keep a lookout for persons from Hampton and Phœbus, sending any who might be discovered to Crany Island for detention.

Surgeon Wasdin telegraphs for the day ended August 1: Three new cases at the Home and 1 death, making in all 40 cases and 8 deaths. One suspicious case in Phœbus. House-to-house inspection of Phœbus is being conducted.

Governor Woodfin telegraphs: All favorable at the Home; Wasdin giving valuable assistance.

In response to Surgeon Vickery's request for immune physicians and nurses, Assistant Surgeon Von Ezdorf, Act. Asst. Surg. I. G. Tuten, and Acting Assistant Surgeon Fonde, 2 male and 2 female nurses, were sent him.

Surgeon White has arranged for the disinfection of all mail from the Home and from Phœbus, and the Post-Office Department for the disinfection of mail from Hampton and Old Point.

The Kensington Engine Works were requested to ship to Pettus at once 2 autoclaves and the medical purveyor was directed to ship him 2 carboys of formalin and 2 of formalin mixture for disinfecting.

August 3: On request the chief of the Revenue Cutter Service has directed the steamship *Windom* to proceed from Baltimore to Norfolk in order to transport supplies from Norfolk to Old Point by way of the *Jamestown*.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Magruder ordered to Richmond for duty and Act. Asst. Surg. Frank Donaldson ordered to report to him, the two to inspect towns between Richmond and Newport News. Passed Assistant Surgeon Stimpson was ordered to Newport News and to report by wire to Surgeon White, and Assistant Surgeon Frick and Hospital Steward Kolb were also directed to report for duty to Surgeon White.

August 4: Surgeon Wasdin telegraphs that tents are being erected and by the 5th enough will be erected to accommodate 1,500 persons. The old soldiers will be moved into these and their quarters disinfected.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

El Paso, July 23, 1899.—I have the honor to report that on Tuesday of the past week there arrived on the Mexican Central Railroad a passenger from Tampico, Mexico. He was an employee of the Mexican Central Railroad, and his pass showed that he had been ten days absent from